ing resources in various regions of the country.

(2) Revised Cost Estimates for the ongoing transmission system project associated with Kathalguri (Assam) Gas based Power Project (280 MW) amounting to Rs. 681.19 crores (including Interest During Construction of Rs. 16.03 crores). The transmission would also provide an inter-regional link to facilitate exchange of power between the North-Eastern and Eastern Regions.

Delay in Power Projects

127. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Times of India of 1st February, 1995 under the caption "Delay in Power Projects worries plan panel"; and

(b) if so, what is Government reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To prevent delay in implementation of power projects, periodical review meetings are held in the Ministry of Power to identify the critical areas in the case of each project. Such meetings are also attended by the officers of the Central Electricity Authority to sort out the problems from technical angles and to remove bottlenecks on a priority basis so as to speed up the activities for completion of the projects on time.

Insurance cover for investment by USA in power sector

128. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA has suggested the idea of Insurance Cover" as an alternative to secure its investment, if any, in power sector in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Power generation from lignite in Tamil Nadu

129. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to generate power in Jeyangondam area is Tamil Nadu, utilising the lignite available there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a German Company has withdrawn their approval given previously to join in the Project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Electrification of villages in Uttar Pradesh

130. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey in connection with

the electrification programme in the country, specifically in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that many villages of the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh are still unelectrified; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to electrify these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Rural Electrification is a continuous process and the surveys in this regard for the various areas are conducted by the respective State Governments/State Electricity Boards from time to time. Such surveys are also being conducted by UPSEB in their areas including hill areas of the State.

(c) As per available information, as on 30th November, 1994, out of the 15,117 inhabited villages (1981 census) in the eight hilly dtstricts of Uttar Pradesh 3,513 villages remain to be electrified.

(d) As stated above, Rural Electrification being a continuous process funds for the programme are annually allocated by the Planning Commission for the State as a whole. The district-wise priority is decided by the State Government within the overall allocation for the State, on a year to year basis. For the year 1994-95, the Palnning Commission has allocated Rs. 131 crores for rural electrification works in Uttar Pradesh, including for electrification of 1,111 villages.

भारतीय वस्त्र उद्योग को विश्व प्रतियोगिता के लिए खोला जाना

131. **श्री कृष्णलाल शर्मा :** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत द्वारा अमरीका तथा यूरोपीय संघ के साथ किये गये दो समझौतों में भारतीय वस्त्र उद्योग को विश्व प्रतियोगिता के लिए खोल दिया है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि भारत वर्तमान में इस विश्व प्रतियोगिता का सामना करने के लिए तैयार नहीं है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार विश्व प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने के लिए भारत को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु क्या उपाय करने का विचार रखती हैं ?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकटस्वामी) : (क) संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका की कुछ चिंताओं को दूर करने की दृष्टि से भारत ने 3 से शुरू होने वाली 7 वर्ष की अवधि के लिए विभिन्न दरों पर कुछ वस्त्र मदों के लिए बाजारों को सीमित मात्रा में खोलने तथा चरणबद्ध तरीके से शुल्कों के उदारीकरण के प्रति सहमति प्रकट की हैं।

(ख) तथा (ग) चूंकि भारतीय वस्त्र उद्योग एक सुदृढ़ औद्योगिक आधार है तथा इसके निर्यात तीव्रता से बढ़ रहे हैं यह अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धाओं का सामना करने के लिए तैयार है। फाइबर तथा यार्न में जो तत्काल प्रवेश दिया गया है वह अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय रूप से प्रतिस्पर्धा कीमतों, पर अपरिष्कृत सामग्री उपलब्ध कराने की नीति के अनुरूप हैं तथापि, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता में प्रभावपूर्ण ढंग से भाग लेने के लिए भारतीय वस्त्र उद्योग को मजबूती प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार ने अनेक कदम उठाए हैं, जिनमें क्रेता-विक्रेता बैठकों, मेलों तथा प्रर्दशनियों में भाग लेने, के लिए निर्यातकों को प्रोत्साहन देना निर्यात उत्पादन के लिए रियायती शुल्क पर पंजीगत वस्तुओं का आयात करना, निर्यात उत्पादन के लि अपरिष्कृत सामग्रियों के शुल्क मुक्त आयात के लिए विशेष व्यवस्था करना, निर्यात साख की बढ़ी हुई उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करना आदि शामिल हैं।

Grievances of employees of BIC Mills

132. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation